



El-news

IRTS supporting Amateur Radio



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Wild Atlantic Way



A banner depicting the 9 QSL cards and award certificate for working the Wild Atlantic Way counties was exhibited at HamRadio 2017 the International Amateur Radio Exhibition in Friedrichshafen, Germany last month.

The banner contained text in German and

English. The interest in the WAW Award continues, so we encourage participation. The June 2017 edition of **CQDL** the magazine of **DARC** (the German National Society) has an article by Annette DL6SAK about the WAW Award and gives the statistics until April.

The following is the County Table including all logs received by 28th July.

Clare	EI66WAW	17,367
Cork	EI99WAW	16,263
Donegal	EI11WAW	15,974
Mayo	EI44WAW	12,273
Kerry	EI88WAW	11,058
Leitrim	EI22WAW	11,044
Limerick	EI77WAW	10,195
Galway	EI55WAW	10,056
Sligo	EI33WAW	9,538

Total QSO 113,768

Total number of "Worked all 9" Certificates issued 417

Total number of QSL cards processed approx 16,800

All information on using one of the calls is available on the IRTS website at www.irts.ie/waw.

Summits On The Air



SOTA is an award scheme that encourages portable operation in mountainous areas. SOTA that has been carefully designed to make participation possible for all Radio Amateurs and Shortwave Listeners - this is not just for mountaineers!

For example, Joe EI7GY, a regular SOTA activator, reports that he recently heard John VK6NU, formerly EI4GY, operating on Slieve Gullion, the highest point in County Armagh. He also heard Esther G10AZA and Ian G10AZB were on the air from the Mourne, on Slievenaglogh. With long days and (hopefully) reasonable weather expect to hear more summits on the air over the next few weeks. Why not join in? For more information see www.sota.org.uk/



For those with an interest in experimenting with satellite communications AMSAT has produced an updated version of the **Fox-1 Operating Guide**.

See <https://www.amsat.org/station-and-operating-hints/>

South Eastern Amateur Radio Group



Following the great success at previous shows, the South Eastern Amateur Radio Group have been asked back to the Inistioge Vintage Rally again this year. This year celebrates the 25th anniversary of this great event and will take place on Sunday the 6th of August 2017.

The Inistioge Vintage Rally is a great fun filled family day out with loads of vintage cars and engines from times gone past. Loads of things for all the kids too. So, if you're looking for a great day out head on down to Inistioge and call by the SEARG demonstration area where we will have an amateur radio station in operation. The lads will be delighted to explain how amateur radio works. We look forward to seeing you there!

For anyone that wishes to find out more about the South Eastern Amateur Radio Group and its activities you can come along to any of the club meetings. You can check the club website www.searg.ie and you can also follow / join the club on Facebook and follow the club on Twitter.

South Dublin Radio Club

SDR will be taking its traditional break for the next 2 weeks.

The club will meet again on Tuesday 15th of August.

In the meantime club members, and non club members are welcome to join the net on the 6 metre band on 50.145MHz any weekday evening from 8 to 9pm local time.

Tipperary Amateur Radio Group

Tipperary Amateur Radio Group will activate Ballinacourty Lighthouse ILLW Ref: IE0018 on Saturday and Sunday 19th & 20th August 2017 as part of the 20th International Lighthouse & Lightship weekend. Ballinacourty Lighthouse is located on the South coast of Ireland in County Waterford. The light at Ballinacourty was first established on 1st July 1858. The club will use the callsign EI7T for the activation and anyone interested in attending (including SWLs) should contact the club as soon as possible

For anyone that wishes to find out more about the Tipperary Amateur Radio Group and its activities you can come along to any of our meetings. You can check the club website www.ei7trg.ie or contact club PRO Ronan EI4KN QTHR for further information.

New Digital Mode From K1JT – FT8

WSJT-X Version 1.8.0 includes a new mode called FT8, developed by K9AN and K1JT. FT8 uses 15-second T/R sequences, provides 50% or better decoding probability down to -20 dB and maintains good performance on Doppler-spread fading channels. An auto-sequencing facility includes an option to respond automatically to the first decoded reply to your CQ. FT8 QSOs are 4 times faster than those made with JT65 or JT9. FT8 is claimed to be an excellent mode for HF DXing and for situations like multi-hop E_s on 6 metres, where deep QSB may make fast and reliable completion of QSOs desirable.



For those who want to have their own radio-related internet domain name, **.radio** is a new top-level domain which is exclusively dedicated to radio stations, web radios, radio professionals, companies selling radio good and services, and radio amateurs which will launch in November and is managed by the European Broadcasting Union. Radio Amateurs have the opportunity to subscribe in advance from 23rd August. See www.nic.radio for more details



Another batch of newsletters has been added to the IRTS Publications Library at www.irts.ie/library this time supplied by Leo EI8BR. Leo has provided us with copies of newsletters from the early 1980s, so we now have practically all the IRTS newsletters from Autumn 1981 through to the year 2000 in the online library, as well as occasional newsletters dating from as far back as 1948. Once again we are asking members to have a look through their bookshelves and attics to find copies of some of the missing newsletters; Séamus EI8BP or Joe EI7GY will look after scanning and uploading any newly-unearthed publications.



Do you know anyone who might be interested in becoming a licensed amateur radio operator? Has one of your friends been asking you recently about how they can get into the hobby? If so, then now is as good a time to remind them of the next examination which will take place in **December**. IRTS has a wealth of helpful guidance and information on the website at www.hamradio.ie. From this website you can discover the main topics which are expected to be known as a minimum for the examination. We are only currently beginning August, although, as we all know, studywise the next exam is not that far away. Contact your local club to enquire about classes.



The subject of planning permission was raised at the AGM in April. A small group headed by Gerry EI8CC is currently compiling information about **planning issues** that members may have experienced in relation to their antenna installations. If you wish to share any relevant information please contact Gerry by email.



At the request of the IARU we are carrying out a survey of use of the band 5570 to 5850 GHz. Would any licensed amateurs using the band please forward details of their use of this band to Seán EI7CD.

ECHO IRELAND

There is a vacancy for the position of Editor of Echo Ireland. If you would like to contribute to the production of the Society's Journal contact Séamus EI8BP

Members Ads

Complete Base Station For Sale Yaesu FT101ZD with Matching ATU, Watson W220 SWR/Power Meter, 3 Way Antenna Switch, Junk Box of various leads and stuff, HB Wire Ants with Co-Ax, 2 steel mast poles. ICOM ICR71E Receiver & Old FT DX500 TRCVR. The lot for €200. Tony EI4ED, 089 253 8645 or QTHR

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Silent Key Sale. Yaesu FTDX-3000 As new. Very little use. HF + 6m. 100w. Built-in CW Keyer & antenna tuner. €1,200.00.

Dave EI4BZ, 087 629 0574 or davebeag@gmail.com

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12 element 2m Yagi €50.00.

Tom EI5ASB, 087 933 0209 or ei5asb370ms@gmail.com

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**North Cork
Radio Group**
EI1NC

Annual Radio and Electronics Rally

Sunday 10th September 2017

The Commons Inn, Blackpool, Cork

Doors open 11am. Admission €5, under 16s free

A raffle will also be held on the day with tickets available at the door.

To book a table, contact Lisa EI9GSB on 086 842 756

Contests – August 2017

[WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#) : [RSGB HF Contests](#) : [UKEICC Contests](#) : [IRTS Contests](#)

Sat 5	12:00	12 hours	European HF CW & SSB	160-10m, exchange year of 1st licence (last 2 digits)
Sat 12	00:00	48 hours	WAE-DX CW	80-10m, exchange serials, work DX (non-EU) only
Sat 19	08:00	24 hours	Russian District CW & SSB	160m-10m, send Serial, log District, work Russia only
Sat 26	12:00	24 hours	YO-DX CW & SSB	80-10m, Serial or YO county, work everyone
Sun 27	2pm local	2 hours	IRTS 2 Metres Counties	work everyone, send Serial, County
Every	Wed	60 mins	CWops Mini Contests	160-10m, three separate CW contests

List compiled by Joe EI7GY (Unless otherwise stated, all times are UTC)